

STATUS REPORT – DECEMBER 2010

California Commission on Aging
Operational Plan
2010 – 2011

The overarching purpose of the 2010-2011 Operational Plan is to assist the CCoA in advocating for and shaping aging policies and programs that meet the needs of older Californians today and in the future.

Approved November 17, 2009

Who Is the California Commission on Aging?

The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) was established in 1973 by the Burton Act in response to Older Americans Act guidance. The Commission was confirmed in the original Older Californians Act of 1980 and its duties reconfirmed in the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act of 1996.

According to California statute, the Commission is to serve as “***the principal advocate in the state on behalf of older individuals, including, but not limited to, advisory participation in the consideration of all legislation and regulations made by state and federal departments and agencies relating to programs and services that affect older individuals.***” As such, the CCoA is the principal advisory body to the Governor, State Legislature, and State, Federal and local departments and agencies on issues affecting older Californians. The Commission is committed to working in cooperative partnerships with a variety of stakeholders and other advocacy organizations.

The Commission is a 25-member body appointed by the Governor, Assembly Speaker and Chair of the Senate Rules Committee.

Focus Areas of the Operational Plan

The CCoA is charged with holding meetings around the state, considering the views of Older Californians and calling together state leadership in order to influence programs and services for older Californians. These mandates helped shape the action steps the Commission will take in achieving their 2010 - 2011 objectives.

The Operational Plan was approved by the Commission in November, upon the recommendation of the Operational Procedures & Bylaws Committee. It focuses on seven (7) priority areas consistent with statutory responsibilities as identified in Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 9200-9205.

To address the policy and program challenges of today and tomorrow’s older Californians and plan for the impact that changing demographics and diversity will have on our state, the Commission will enhance state-wide advocacy efforts, create a stronger advisory voice, disseminate relevant information and continue their leadership of the Senior Center Initiative. In recognition of the value of partnerships, the Commission will work closely with the California Department of Aging in the implementation of the 2009-2013 State Plan on Aging, will hold a second joint meeting with the State Independent Living Council and will assist in the development of the State Plan on Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias.

California Commission on Aging Operational Plan 2010 - 2011

The overarching purpose of the 2010 – 2011 Operational Plan is to assist the CCoA in advocating for and shaping aging policies and programs that meet the needs of older Californians today and in the future.

Objective 1: Enhance CCoA advocacy efforts through (a) thoughtful analysis of Legislation and emerging policy issues (b) initiation and maintenance of Coalitions and (c) forging a stronger partnership with disability advocacy organizations.

- Sponsor and/or take positions on legislation and policies affecting older Californians and adults with disabilities, including recommending Executive Orders. Assigned to Advocacy & Policy Committee.

Status: ONGOING. Advocacy & Policy Committee meets on a regular basis. One of the three CCoA sponsored bills in 2010 was signed by the Governor. Staff efforts are underway to identify potential legislation for 2011.

- Participate in coalitions that foster development or implementation of legislation or policy issues that enhance services to older Californians, adults with disabilities, and caregivers. Assigned to staff and/or Commissioners as determined by CCoA Chair.

Status: CONTINUING. Commissioners and/or staff participated in C4A Legislative Review, The SCAN Foundation's Workforce Development Committee Meeting, California Elder Justice Coalition, Little Hoover Commission's Long Term Care initiative, and Alzheimer's Task Force. CCoA partnered on legislation with the County Welfare Directors' Association of California, the Congress of California Seniors and the California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association.

- Coordinate a **third** joint meeting with the State Independent Living Council, including a co-sponsored hearing on a topic of mutual interest. From the hearing prepare an issue brief. Assigned to staff and Executive Committee.

Status: CONTINUING. CCoA and SILC will meet together on December 7, 2010. Follow-up activities will be generated at that meeting.

- Participate on a planning committee led by CA Department of Rehabilitation to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Assigned to staff.

Status: COMPLETED. Event to commemorate the ADA was held at the

State Capitol in June 2010. CCoA participated on the planning committee and volunteered at the event.

Objective 2: Fulfill CCoA's advisory responsibilities to state departments and appointing authorities through (a) frequent communication with California Department of Aging (CDA) and other state departments and (b) attendance at or provision of testimony at venues where older adult issues are discussed.

- Invite CDA Director to participate in CCoA meetings on a regular basis and as relevant, incorporate other state entities in CCoA meetings/hearings, consistent with Standing Rules. Assigned to staff and CCoA Chair.

Status: ONGOING. CDA Director regularly attends CCoA meetings and the CDA Deputy Director frequently attends meetings of the CCoA State Plan Committee. Other state programs that appeared before CCoA included: CA Department of Mental Health, CA Mental Health Planning Council, Mental Health Service Oversight & Accountability Commission, CA Alzheimer's Association, CA State Alzheimer's Plan Task Force and members of the Legislature.

- Identification of state-wide policy, programs and regulations requiring updating or revision and foster initiatives for change. Assigned to staff and Executive Committee.

Status: ONGOING. CCoA serves as a stakeholder in the updating of the State Alzheimer's Plan. Staff has provided input on older adult concerns to the Mental Health Planning Council's Older Adult System of Care Committee, California Welfare Directors' Association, and California Elder Justice Coalition.

- Participation in the development of the State Plan on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Assigned to staff.

Status: ONGOING. Progress Reports on the State Plan development were presented to Commissioners at all meetings held in 2010. Staff and/or Commissioners attended meetings of the CA State Alzheimer's Plan Task Force meetings. State Plan has a tentative completion date of Dec 30, 2010.

- Coordinate a "Capitol Visit to Appointing Authorities" in 2011. Assigned to staff.

Status: NOT COMPLETED. The state budget situation and an election prevented the visits from occurring. Recommend deletion of objective from Operational Plan.

Objective 3: Assist CDA with advancing or achieving 2009 – 2013 State Plan objectives or strategies.

- Meet with CDA to identify 1-2 objectives within the State Plan and make these part of the CCoA emphasis areas for 2010 – 2011. Develop strategies to promote change, including research, meetings with stakeholders and/or public hearings. Assigned to staff, chair of the State Plan on Aging Committee and chair of the Operational Procedures & Bylaws Committee.

Status: IN PROGRESS. Propose informational hearing in 2011 on older adult volunteerism. (State Plan on Aging 2009-2013, Goal II, Objective II.a.)

Objective 4: Continue momentum on Senior Center Initiative

- Remain connected to California's senior center organizations and relevant stakeholders. Assigned to staff.

Status: ONGOING. CCoA continues to dialogue with senior center stakeholders. Senior centers have been added to the "AgeWatch" distribution list.

- With Congress of California Seniors, co-host an information hearing on Senior Center Initiative - infrastructure survey results - in February 2010. Assigned to staff and Executive Committee.

Status: COMPLETED. Commissioners, Staff and partners presented a report and recommendations at a successful legislative informational hearing at the State Capitol in 2010. The hearing was held before the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care.

- Maintain the Senior Center Initiative's Advisory Panel and schedule meetings as necessary. Assigned to staff and Senior Center Initiative Committee Chair.

Status: ONGOING. The original Advisory Panel was dissolved by CCoA action following the adoption of the Initiative's Final Report. Subsequent CCoA action called for the recreation of a new Advisory Panel to participate in the content selection of an upcoming Senior Center Forum. The new Panel will be formed in January 2011.

- Work to implement recommendations from Senior Center Initiative Final Report, including coordinating with other stakeholders to promote increased recognition of and funding for California's senior and community centers. Assigned to staff, Senior Center Initiative Committee and Advocacy & Policy Committee.

Status: ONGOING. Worked with CSL (2010 session) on introducing a bill proposal for a Senior Center Month in 2011. Continue discussions with National Institute of Senior Centers and academia about trends, threats and opportunities for senior and community centers.

- Determine viability of a follow-up statewide senior center stakeholder forum and if appropriate develop action plan for an event in 2011. Assigned to staff, Senior Center Initiative Committee and Executive Committee.

Status: IN PROGRESS. CCoA, with other stakeholders, will be pursuing development of a second statewide senior center forum in November 2011 in Los Angeles.

Objective 5: Identify opportunities to prepare, publish and disseminate information addressing a variety of aging issues to all Californians.

- Widely disseminate Senior Center Initiative's Final Report. Assigned to staff and Senior Center Initiative Committee.

Status: COMPLETED. Working with the Congress of California Seniors, documents related to the Senior Center Initiative were disseminated to state leadership, legislators, senior centers and other stakeholders. The documents are available on the CCoA website.

- Sponsor a minimum of three (3) public or informational hearings that relate to prioritized emphasis areas. Focus hearings so that at least two hearings relate to the same emphasis area. Assigned to staff and Executive Committee.

Status: COMPLETED/ONGOING. All five (5) CCoA meetings in 2010 had a public or informational hearing component. The hearing topics included:

- *State Perspectives on the Mental Health Services Act: The Impact on Older Californians and Older Adult System of Care Development;*
 - *Local Perspectives on Mental Health Services Act Implementation;*
 - *Silver Tsunami – Will California's Senior Center Infrastructure Be Ready for the Boomer Wave (Legislative hearing);*
 - *Title VI, Older Americans Act, Programs and Services for Native Americans; and*
 - *The Intersection of Aging and Disability*
- Create position papers and/or recommendations following public hearings or other activities. Assigned to staff and Executive Committee.

Status: IN PROGRESS. A synopsis of the Older Americans Act Title VI Hearing, held in partnership with the Administration on Aging and United

Indian Health Services, Inc., was prepared and submitted to the Administration on Aging. The informational paper on the Mental Health Services Act is still in development.

- Maintain regularly updated website and review external websites for CCoA links. Assigned to staff.

Status: ONGOING. Due to a change in state processes, CCoA has been trained and now is responsible for website updating. As a result, the site is more current than in previous years. As time permits or as links come to our attention, they are added to the CCoA site.

Objective 6: Enhance CCoA effectiveness by (a) selecting meeting locations and formats that allow for meaningful study of needs and development of recommended program or policy change and (b) build on CCoA's Committee Structure.

- Continue with rotational meetings around the State to better understand the state's diversity and to promote policy changes that are inclusive of such diversity. Assigned to staff and Executive Committee.

Status: COMPLETED/ONGOING. At least three of the five meetings in 2010 were held in locations outside of Sacramento, including Riverside, Eureka and Burlingame.

- Structure special and ad hoc Committees to respond to changing focus. Assigned to CCoA Chair and Executive Committee.

Status: COMPLETED/ONGOING. CCoA Chair assigns committees as necessary.

Objective 7: Ensure appropriate and effective administration of CCoA and Triple-A Council of California (TACC) statutory responsibilities

- Annual review and update of administrative procedures and activities. Assigned to staff.

Status: YET TO BE COMPLETED. Annual review of manuals and documents will occur in January.

- Maintain updated CCoA Orientation Manual and TACC Policy Manual. Assigned to staff.

Status: COMPLETED/ONGOING. CCoA Orientation Manual updated in early 2010 in response to new appointments. TACC Policy Manual is current.

- Prepare and publish a CCoA Brochure or fact sheet. Assigned to staff and Executive Committee.

Status: ONGOING. The CCoA has published two issues of “AgeWatch,” reporting Commission activities and information on ongoing and upcoming senior issues.

- Promote representative diversity on the Commission.

Status: ONGOING.